

I am growing ever more concerned about the lack of thorough news reporting over the broadcast media. Although I recognize that much of the problem is attributable to time, short attention spans, and "ratings," I am also concerned that the growing control and homogenization of the media by a few corporations is strangling the scope of news available to the average person. When one has to search hard to find broad and in-depth information and to diligently access international broadcast media to obtain insight into world events, a disservice is done to the citizenry of the United States. In short, democracy suffers. When one reads, listens, or watches information, one always has to consider the sources and the biases of the particular medium to determine its validity. However, allowing ownership of the media by only a few publishers surely limits the scope of information and thought, and thus cannot serve freedom of the press or contribute to a well-informed citizenry. The argument that media can be enhanced by consolidation of ownership, as if it were a Wal-Mart, ignores the greater risk that currying the publisher's favor will restrict diverse views and information. It is ever more important that the FCC allow for greater public access to broad-based information.